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February 4, 2013

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Dkt. No. 09-182 – 2010 Quadrennial Regulatory Review – Review of the Commission’s Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; MB Dkt. No. 07-294 – Promoting Diversification of Ownership in the Broadcasting Services

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to section 1.1206(b) of the Commission’s rules, this letter provides notice regarding an *ex parte* communication in the above referenced proceedings.

On January 31, 2013, Cheryl Leanza, representing the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, in person, and Angela Campbell, Laura Moy, and law student Brendan Forbes of the Institute for Public Representation, counsel to the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, by phone (collectively, “UCC”), met with Dave Grimaldi, Chief of Staff for Commissioner Mignon Clyburn.

UCC reiterated our previously expressed concern that repealing the newspaper-radio cross-ownership rule would have a detrimental impact on already low levels of radio station ownership by minorities and women.¹ We urged Commissioner Clyburn to oppose any actions loosening restrictions on

¹ See, e.g., Comments of UCC et al. at 4 (Dec. 26, 2012).

cross-ownership until the Commission has conducted studies examining the impact such actions would have on diversity of ownership. UCC reiterated that radio contributes to viewpoint diversity, and stressed our support for the Commission's long-held common sense position that ownership diversity affects viewpoint diversity. We expressed our concern that increasing consolidation would make it more difficult for existing minority- and women-owned radio stations to remain in the market and express their diverse viewpoints.

We explained the shortcomings of a 2001 study by David Pritchard that purported to demonstrate that cross-ownership between radio and newspaper did not undermine viewpoint diversity.² The 2001 Pritchard study is unconvincing: it covered only a handful of stations during one election, suffered from methodological flaws, purported to reach conclusions unwarranted by its own data, and narrowly defined viewpoint diversity by focusing on political viewpoints of certain published or broadcast items.³ We contrasted this flawed study with the 2002 Future of Music study, which found that consolidation in radio ownership "has led to less competition, fewer viewpoints, and less diversity in programming,"⁴ explicitly countering the Pritchard study's findings.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/

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cc: Dave Grimaldi

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² David Pritchard, *A Tale of Three Cities: "Diverse and Antagonistic" Information in Situations of Local Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership*, 54 Fed. Comm. L.J. 31, 49-51 (2001).

³ See Comments of UCC *et al.* at 10-12 (Jan. 2, 2003).

⁴ Peter D. Cola & Kristin Thomson, *Radio Deregulation: Has it Served Citizens and Musicians?: A Report on the Effect of Radio Ownership Consolidation Following the 1996 Telecommunications Act*, Future of Music Coalition at 4-5 (Nov. 18, 2002); see Comments of UCC *et al.* at 36-39 (Jan. 2, 2003).